

# The Commoner.

CHARLES W. BRYAN, PUBLISHER

VOL. 8, NO. 33

Lincoln, Nebraska, August 28, 1908

Who's Number 397

## THERE'S NO DISCRIMINATION

*Chairman Mack and other democrats are making a fuss because the railroads refused to make special rates for the Bryan notification this week, though special rates were made for the Taft notification. They should remember that railroads are not in the habit of charging regular rates for their own construction material or for their employes. How can the railroads conduct a political campaign if they put the people and the corporation agents on the same footing? In 1896 and 1900 the railroads treated republicans and republican meetings as railroad affairs. Why shouldn't they do so this year?---San Francisco Star.*

## JOHN W. KERN'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE

Gentlemen of the Notification Committee: For the kindly and courteous manner in which you have conveyed to me the official notification of my nomination as the democratic candidate for vice president of the United States, and for the eloquent words just spoken by your chairman in your behalf, I thank you one and all.

I appreciate most highly this great honor conferred upon me by the unanimous vote of the representatives of my party in national convention assembled, and I shall strive most earnestly to earn a continuation of the confidence and good will manifested by that action. I did not seek this nomination. Indeed, if my own personal desires had been consulted, another would have received the honor, but it having come to me without solicitation, I prize it all the more, and accept it, with a full sense of the burdens and responsibilities. As a candidate I shall try to wear the honor worthily, and, as faithfully as I can, discharge all the duties properly devolving on me as one of your standard bearers, and if elected I promise to serve all the people of the republic by the conscientious discharge of the duties of the office.

I have no thought that the men who made up that great convention at Denver nominated me as their candidate because they believed that I had ability or merit superior to that possessed by any one of the distinguished gentlemen whose names were considered in connection with the vice presidential nomination. Many years of service on my part might have had some slight influence in determining their action, but I am persuaded that it was the chief purpose of the convention, in choosing a son of Indiana as its candidate, to show its appreciation of the great democratic party of this splendid commonwealth, made up as it is of more than a third of a million of men, good and true—the very flower of the great democratic army of the republic. I prefer to accept this proffered honor in the name of these loyal democrats of Indiana, for whom the honor was, I believe, really intended. It is pleasing to me to be associated in this campaign with the distinguished gentleman to whom the standard of the party has been committed. For years we have been friends. I recognize in him a man of spotless character and high ideals, always actuated by patriotic motives and an earnest desire to promote the welfare, the honor and glory of his country. He became your candidate because his nomination was demanded by the rank and file of the party, which demand was emphasized by a popular movement in his favor, which, as it proceeded, so grew in volume and force as to become irresistible.

He enters upon this campaign unpledged to any special interests, under no obligations to any unlawful or other combination of

capital, looking to no corporation for campaign contributions—absolutely free to serve the people by carrying out the pledges of his party's platform. While he is the foe to unlawful monopoly, and is prepared to lay a heavy hand upon the lawless, whether rich or poor, without fear or favor, and to combat the encroachments of greed upon honest endeavor, he is the friend of every legitimate business enterprise, whether conducted by individual or corporation, and will sympathize with the promotion of every movement which makes for the welfare and prosperity of the country.

A distinguished republican, the other day referred to his influence with his party as a one man power. If by that he meant to say that Mr. Bryan possessed the power, in a marked degree, to influence the thought and arouse the conscience of the republic, as no other man of his time, or if he meant that by his upright life, his consistent course, his appeals for right living, and patriotic action, he has earned the confidence and personal affection of millions of his countrymen, and gained the respect and admiration of all the people of the world who love liberty and humanity, then the distinguished gentleman was right, with respect to the one man power of William Jennings Bryan.

Mr. Bryan has exerted no other power. He had had no subordinates to command, no officeholders to direct. I think it may be safely said that there were no postmasters, nor other federal officeholders or employes in the Denver convention. Every delegate to that convention "carried his sovereignty under his own hat," and, as an independent American freeman, owing no allegiance save to country and flag, cast his vote for Bryan because in his heart he believed that the nomination and election of such a man were demanded by the best interests of the republic.

The republican nominee for vice president in his recent speech of acceptance affected the belief that the question "Shall the people rule?" implied a charge of venality against the American electorate. He affirmed, with great emphasis, that under recent republican administration the people have ruled without let or hindrance.

It is passing strange that in a republic like this there should be occasion for a discussion of this question. It is a government of the people and by the people. They presumably govern themselves through their servants whom they send to represent them in congress. Their will, when known, ought to be supreme, and should be given immediate effect.

And if the will of the people once known is not given effect, then the people do not rule.

Will any intelligent man claim that there is or has been any